

President to sell F-16 C/D aircraft to Taiwan to modernize its aging air fleet. It is consistent with U.S. obligations to provide weapons for Taiwan's defense under the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act.

The Obama administration said two years ago that it would "seriously consider" selling the newer fighter jets to Taiwan. During the 112th Congress, 181 Members of the House sent a letter to the Administration urging it to "move quickly" to address Taiwan's critical need. Yet since then, it has only sold retrofit packages for Taiwan's older fighter models, some of which are decades old. Taiwan is a key strategic ally in the Pacific. It is America's 9th largest trading partner. Our amendment is critical to America's strategic economic and defense partnerships with Taiwan, and it reinforces our commitment to support a democratic Taiwan given the growing military gap and cyber security threat across the Taiwan Strait.

The other amendment builds on language already in the bill the limit military contact and cooperation with the Russian Federation in the wake of its annexation of Crimea and its ongoing role in stoking unrest within eastern Ukraine. The bill already limits activity and funding under the Department of Defense and the National Security Administration with respect to Russia, including the purchase of Russian-made helicopters for the Afghanistan Security Force. My amendment would also prevent the integration of Russian missile systems into the missile defense systems of the United States if such integration undermines the security of the U.S. or NATO. It mirrors a similar prohibition already in the bill relating to the integration of Chinese missile defense systems.

The situation in Ukraine continues to deteriorate. We are witnessing open and armed

clashes in the streets and pro-Russian militants are usurping the authority of local governments. Russia's repeated attempts to undermine the sovereign governments of former Soviet Republics by stoking the discontent of ethnic minorities now constitutes Russia's modus operandi on foreign subterfuge. For countries seeking to shed authoritarian institutions, Western economic prosperity and democratic freedoms can be like a moth to flame. Cold War era geopolitics dictated that the endgame for the USSR was to extinguish that flame. In the post-Cold War era, Russia has its sights set on the moth. The President already has leveled sanctions against Russian political leaders and banks, and further economic sanctions are possible. To further pressure Russia to cease this aggression action and to reverse course, the U.S. and its allies should seek to limit all collaboration with the Russian Federation until and unless it withdraws troops from Crimea and Ukraine's eastern border.

Again, I thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member for working with me on these amendments. I am grateful for their inclusion in the final bill, and I urge my colleagues to support final passage.

RECOGNIZING JAY KNIGHT AND
DENNY SALISBURY AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LCPL
JOHNNY STRONG

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jay Knight, of East Moline, Illi-

nois, and Denny Salisbury for their efforts on behalf of Child's Play charity, and join them in commemorating Marine Lance Corporal Johnny Strong, who was killed in action while serving in Iraq at the age of 21.

Lance Corporal Strong was born in Waco, Texas. In school, he joined JROTC, and after graduation, he went to San Diego for boot camp and training. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, where he served with Jay and Denny. On June 12th, 2007, while on his second tour of duty, Lance Corporal Strong was shot and killed by an enemy sniper during a security patrol in Iraq's Anbar province. He had been among the first to volunteer to conduct an extra security sweep around the platoon's temporary forward operating base.

Lance Corporal Strong was an avid gamer and was interested in working in the video game industry when he finished his service. In his honor, Jay and Denny are bicycling approximately 4400 miles between Penny Arcade eXpo (PAX) gaming festivals in Boston and Seattle. Their ride is raising money for Child's Play, a charity which provides video games, books and other toys to children in hospitals worldwide. Along the way, Jay and Denny are stopping in children's hospitals around the country to showcase the important work of Child's Play and the real impact it has on the lives of sick children.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Jay Knight and Denny Salisbury for their dedicated service to our country as well as for their inspirational efforts in the name of Lance Corporal Strong to improve the lives of hospitalized children. I wish them the very best as they continue their extraordinary ride across the county.